

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING INTERRUPTS**

A method, apparatus, and computer instructions for managing interrupts using a set of presentation controllers. Each interrupt presentation controller contains a set of interrupt management areas (one for each processor associated with the interrupt presentation controller - the combination of interrupt management area and processor is known as an "interrupt server"). A first interrupt server is identified in the set of interrupt servers to handle the interrupt in response to receiving an interrupt signal. The set of interrupt servers constituting a server pool are linked in a circular list using a set of identifiers found in the interrupt management area of the interrupt servers within the set of presentation controllers. The message representing the interrupt is sent to a second interrupt server, such as in a second presentation controller in the set of presentation controllers based on an identifier identifying the second interrupt server in the set of interrupt servers, if the first interrupt server is unable to handle the interrupt. The identifier is found within the interrupt management area of the first interrupt server. The interrupt is passed within the circular list until one of the interrupt servers is able to process the interrupt or until all servers in the list have passed the interrupt message - at which time the

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interrupt message is rejected back to the interrupt source controller for later representation.